(1912)

Telegraph and Station } Seend.

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

Jan. 9.

My Billy.

I was for once really glad to get here yesterday & see the brats & was also seemed pleased to see me – Quentin knew me & is very attractive now, Crawling all over the place & even walking, pushing a chair in front of him. His hair is getting thick & redder. I think & he is supposed to be a thorough Stephen. His household is much improved by

Lorna 2
the absence of the Balls.
Dorothy who are still
in Switzerland. Mr Ball
has been in London two
all today. So there has
only been Mrs Ball. The
house is of course incredibly
ugly. But after all I shall
have grumble much if I
only had to be here 3 or 4
days as I shall be now
Anything is tolerable for that
time. I have heard of
lodgings at Nelson & shall
go & them on Friday
I find that the telephone

is remarkably easy to get to from here. It takes much less time than from London I think Roger will come this Tuesday. My address there will be C/o Mrs Heath

Springvale - Wilton.

Isle of Wight.

I have of course not to day having done nothing but go for a short drive with Julian today who never stops chattering about dingoes. A fox has stolen a duck which is a great excitement. Have you any news or any letters?

My dear Leonard has gone I suppose - well, at any rate I'm not

missing him I never heard half enough about you talk with him. I hope I shall one day see him done which I have never done yet - except once.

Write to me soon. Billy. Don't you miss your daily ministrations to me at Gordon Sq.?

Yours

B.

T. PARSONS 3-2-73

Telegraph and Station } Seend.

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

Jan. 11.

My Billy.

I have now had two letters from you of which I was very glad. I hope you didn't flirt too much with Wattie - you know he'll be a great boy later if you do. Have I any good advice for you - Everyone seems to be breaking up - I see that all my friends will soon be in Craig's hands. How has Rupert M^c so bad? Perhaps he's not really as Craig may have thought

had get all right with a short time of drastic treatment. I have been rather jumpy since I've been here. which I suppose was only to be expected after the other disease & I shall be rather glad to get to the sea to-morrow. Roger is coming there I think late Tuesday. It has been wet & humid again & so I have done nothing - It really is too dull here to do not much unless its tolerable weather. I have asked Mr Ball to give us some plants for Ashcham

& he says he always has lots to spare & I shall have a good hamper full of things to plant now. He has also given me unsolicited advice about E.C.S. Ashes are better than earth. but should be well sieved first & kept very dry. Also he says we shall probably have to cement the bites for the terrace or they'll get kicked up.

Roger tells me he has made £277 so far by his show so it's evidently a huge success. I'm wondering how I can make a little money too as we seem to be very hard up. & a bill has

come from Lambeth for £26 which I rather resent. I think he must have changed a lot for the consultations. However it can't be helped & I hope to goodness we shan't have such huge doctors' bills next year. Meanwhile I feel I must justify Askham by making a little or else I shall have to give it up which would be a catastrophe

I'm glad Adrian seems so flourishing. You'd better have your nose done too. Perhaps we all have noses in turn.

Don't forget my address at Nilton - Spinneyvale. Nilton. I see it's not such an easy one after all & will take about 6 hours altogether.

Yours
V.

TELEPHONE 6247 CITY.

Spuqvala.
Nilon.
46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Jan 13

My Billy.

Your news of course isn't unexpected. There has been no difficulty about keeping it secret as (since you) here & I won't tell anyone. I don't think I can give you any advice - all it comes to is don't marry if you aren't in love & do if you are. Only one thing - don't bother about the drawbacks such as jealousies, &c for they don't really matter if you are in love. However

I suppose at present you
aren't. & I don't want
to persuade you in any
way. It's quite true that
Leonard is the only person
I have ever seen whom
I can imagine as the right
husband for you. but I
also see that it's not the
least necessary that you
should marry at all &
also it's quite possible that
the people may arise as
suddenly as he did.

Would you like to ask

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him here? Probably it would be too awkward. But do if you'd like to. You come to Ventnor & drive - or you can come on to Whitwell. but I dont think the trains connect very well. I'm afraid I mayn't be able to meet you at Ventnor as it's 3 miles off &

No. I find I can easily get a fly here & so if you'll send me a telegram to tell me your train I'll meet you at Ventnor.

You probably come from

Portsmouth to Ryde & will find a train waiting to take you to Ventnor.

This place looks very nice but I haven't explored it yet. Roger came last night with a very bad cold & so he's rather decrepit. I'm trying to hear all about Bakewell.

I'm sorry I think to write to Leonard - as he knows that I know - only so that it should be all right when we meet - I shall only warn him of your tempers & general difficulty!

Yours L.I.B.

NYPL

Berg 9172

Sudden disruption at this point in deep morning. Do you guess? No?! Mrs B. & Mistress Toosie. Perhaps not as successful as my Bleau attempt. Adrian & Saxon engaged Mo while Mrs Booth twittered to me. "How are you dear Vanessa? & dear Virginia? Poor child. Yes. I am sure she needs a rest. Yes. nerves are such terrible things. When I had my accident I found that the only thing to do was to

wear no clothes. It is such
a rest not to put them on.
And dear Charlie is so much
better now. He is working
away at his Poor Law. If
only he doesn't do too much.
He thought he was doing a
little too much. So he has gone
back to Gracedieu. I / am going
there too tomorrow & then I
come back on the 4th & go back
again on the 9th & come back
again on the 11th. We have
all got to independent; however
we Baby dear? But we
must fly now. And how de-
lightful the Opera was the other
night! It is all quotations as
someone said of Hamlet. Dear
Vanessa. How good to have seen
& then in Juliet's

Telegraph and Station } Seend.

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

Sunday.

My Baby.

It is pure virtue that makes me write to you for I have very little hope of you doing the same by me. We paid our visit to Ethel & Nan. It was simply amazing. Since I left St Prejedeuta Ottoline's salon I have not seen anything like it. They live in a beautiful 17th century house. very square & solid. Inside the walls are covered with pale subtle greys & whites. There are chintzes & old silks on the chairs & sofas. & bright cushions everywhere. Every detail is considered & arranged. Even the books make into still lifes - the

pens are quills with brilliant green & purple feathers. The flower tubs are pale grey & green. The flowers are all rose or violet. One's bed was soft & luxurious, one had tea in the morning & a maid knocking at one's door at most awkward moments to ask if she could help. The food was as carefully considered as everything else, exquisite & French. Nan & Ethel walk about dressed in deep plum colours with yellow buttons or orange & grey. The pictures are few. John drawings & 18th century prints & Japanese

panels. Clive was disgusted & longed for Seend. My degenerate mind prefers 2 or 3 days of it to 2 or 3 days of Seend. Either would be intolerable for longer. Ethel is kindly & rather foolish. Nan is the male, more intelligent & less attractive. It is she who runs that extraordinary household where no pin is ever out of place. Roger & Doucet were installed when we arrived. Roger evidently much admired & looked up to. & having already almost completed one large picture. How pin & Leonard would have mocked at it all & talked (with reason) of the artistic atmosphere. I should agree with all you had to say. But I found it amusing for one night. Yesterday we

came on here. I was glad to find the children. Julian has rather a bad cough which is tiresome. Quentin is fatter than ever.
Lorna looks very middle-aged & Dorothy is beginning to look bored. However they both continue to play tennis vigorously & everything is as usual. I have been choosing flowers for Asheham. Some I see we shant like. But it's better to have a lot to start upon & then see what we want to keep. Are you there now I wonder. The lawn should be rolled before being mown & the flowers fed, well dug & manured before being sown. But you must anyhow get these instructions a time to carry them out.
Cory & Violet are here for the day & they are all playing tennis. We shall be back I expect on Tuesday morning. Yours V.B.

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Rota 9/72

HÔTEL DE MANIN
MILAN
RUE MANIN 7-9

Tuesday.

My Billy.

Here we are again at the blessed old Hotel Manin. I feel as if I had known Milan & the Manins all my life. We had a few hours in Paris yesterday & helped Roger with the hanging of the show which seems as if it might be successful. They went round Durand Ruels & Vollards on account of its indecency. The pictures altogether looked much better than I thought they would. all except the Camden Town group which collapsed. We met Druet & Vildrac there & afterwards were taken off to dine with the Vildrac family. It was rather amusing. I am now surrounded by just the kind of people you would like I'm sure. English tourists. Old & middle aged women. married & single. I wish I could give you examples of their conversation. "Shall we go

by rail to Genoa." "Oh No. no." "Not by rail to Genoa? You didn't mean by motor to Genoa." "Oh yes. certainly." "N.I. in this weather?" "Oh yes. The glass is going up. If you want to see the distance. Many it is in that map. Yes. We were talking of rail weren't we?" "Oh." They were quite silent all through dinner but have now woken up & are nagging about, very ugly & loud.

I have had the misfortune to soak my new dresses in turpentine which rather spoils their freshness & I shouldn't notice it myself but Clive would, unluckily. Roger joins us here to-morrow & we go on to Bologna either then or the next day. One of the females has dropped all the newspapers on the floor with a bang. Her sister aged 60 looks at her with reproach. They're all mad

excited about a party of 2 Booth like
young ladies with their mother in a
white shawl & two Italian young
men. The young ladies who are as
innocent as lambs, are thought to
be very giddy & are suspected of
being in the carriage with the young
men. We propose here & we both
to wander about in the wet this
afternoon looking at churches.
We very beautiful we which we
had never seen before. Milan is
a dull place I think. I rather
hope we shall go on tomorrow.
I suppose you are sitting in the
sun at Asheham while we shiver
in Italy. Give Leonard my love.
I must write to him soon I think
which will be self sacrificing of
me for I shant get an answer.
Clive has not talked much
of the affair. but thinks you
are certain to get engaged to
him soon - I dont know why
he has suddenly come to this

conclusion unless its because of L.'s
seeing up Ceylon which did rouse
his suspicions. Write & tell me
all about your doings.

Yours KB.

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